

Donald Jones, Director, Office of Minority Procurement, University of Virginia, Charlottesville; Women in Business Advocate of the Year—Claire Gastañaga, Principal, CG2 Consulting, Richmond; Young Entrepreneur of the Year—Bryce Lee Robertson, LowTechWeb.com, Mechanicsville and Entrepreneurial Success of the Year—Dennis Gilbert, President, Tesoro Corporation, Virginia Beach.

ESSAY BY DANIEL ZAJDA

HON. RANDY "DUKE" CUNNINGHAM

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 25, 2003

Mr. CUNNINGHAM. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to read the essay of Daniel Zajda, a member of the Valley Center Teenage Republican Club.

"As a T.A.R.S. member, I have worked hard for the Republican Party and have accepted the Republican values. These values have affected me in many ways and believe that they will stay positive in the future. For the past three years I have been an active supporter and beneficiary of the Teen Age Republicans at Valley Center High School. I have held many positions of office, including being a main contributor in the efforts of gaining an official club charter. As a Vice president in my sophomore year, I helped moderate the agenda and served as a stand in for the President, however, I didn't know much about the difference between conservatives and liberals, but all that eventually changed when I got the privilege to attend the Republican Advocacy Workshop in our state capitol. This particular journey opened my eyes to many of the problems that our state has burdened itself with, due to the incompetence of our governing office. After experience first hand what goes on at the capitol building, I realized the power of politics and eventually realized that I would lead a moral and conservative life as a Republican Party member.

The following year I was elected as President of the T.A.R.S. club and donated much of my time to the development and expansion of our organization. I can recall spending countless hours in hope of registering voters and urging people to get out and vote.

But now our country is dealing with different issues and right now is a great time for our nation to show their support and back our President. And that's exactly what the Republican Party is doing and I am proud to be a part of it."

COMMENDING THE FIRST GRADUATING CLASS OF THE CONNECTICUT INTERNATIONAL BACCALAUREATE ACADEMY

HON. JOHN B. LARSON

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 25, 2003

Mr. LARSON of Connecticut. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to a group of young

constituents of mine in the First Congressional District. They are the first graduating class of the Connecticut International Baccalaureate Academy in my hometown of East Hartford. I would also like to specifically recognize one of the graduates, Alix Prinstil, for the extraordinary speech he gave at the graduation exercises, which I also had the honor of attending. Alix's words and the sentiments he expressed are of lasting value to the school and indeed to our entire education system in Connecticut. I am proud to insert his remarks into the RECORD today and again offer my sincerest congratulations to the Class of 2003.

GRADUATION EXERCISES (Oration by Alix Prinstil)

So we've finally arrived at this day: Our High School Graduation Ceremony. Since I was in about 3rd grade, I dreamed about what it would be like at my high school graduation. This speech, as a matter of fact, was for the most part written in my mind for the past . . . let's see, 12th grade—4th grade = 8 years! I always pictured what the audience's reaction would be when I'd start off with:

"Many graduation speeches begin with, Graduation, Webster's Dictionary defines it as—the award or acceptance of an academic degree or diploma. But you won't hear such a definition in this speech."

In light of what this program has brought to our attention, however, this definition that was probably established centuries ago barely skims the threshold of what "graduation" really means, especially for this C.I.B.A. class.

Ever since we were freshmen, I don't have to remind us how we've constantly been asked by not only friends, but parents and even strangers, the question: "What is I.B.?" But how many of us, except maybe Mr. Abelon, can even now give a detailed (or even correct) answer? If, at this point though, we were asked: What does IB do for a student?, I think we could all give an appropriate response. To make a long explanation short, I'll partially quote the words of Mr. Abelon almost 4 years ago: "It's a rigorous program established to produce a well-rounded-out individual." Well when he said "rigorous" that day, not only did I not know what I was in for, but I apparently didn't know what "rigorous" really meant.

We all walked in the first day with our middle school work ethic, bags that we'd soon discover weren't big enough, and among the presence of a group of approximately 50 people, most we never seen in our lives, and probably never would have. Never did I think that someone my age from towns like Marlborough and Ellington would be in the same classroom. It was through this school that every single one of us was able to see and experience diverse personalities and people from various towns of Connecticut. This diverse group of young people is one of the things within the Academy that I'll probably remember the most. And we've all grown along the way, now looking forward to this summer so we can catch up on the sleep we've lost.

But we can't just think about what we the students went through. Let me remind you, the audience: this is the first school in New England governed by the International Baccalaureate Organization. Our teachers were just as new and in for a treat just as much as we were. Those countless hours of home-

work that we received every night was put right back into the hands of our teachers who would sometimes experience countless hours of grading, whether it be watching our Chinese characters develop as we got older, reading how students explained why a dog isn't a cat, or grading a couple of derivative and integral problems. At this point, I'd really like to give a round of applause to the teachers who have gone through this alongside their students for the first 4 years of this school's establishment, to those who we've recently had, and to those we have had and lost.

Now after all of this reminiscing, we must examine what this graduation really means for us now and what it will mean for us in the future. When we go home this evening (whatever time that may be), what will we all think about? Parents: is the first thing that occurs to you going to be what color your child's room will be painted for that office or gym you always wanted after they go to college? Graduates: will you be wondering what you're going to do for fun tomorrow . . . if we can wake up for tomorrow? With 4 years of such great education behind us, I think we should all go home and take some time to reflect on the advantages we have gained over the majority of students in this state; country; and even the world.

Now for the backbone of this delivery; what I've been trying to lead into for the past 687 words . . .

I need to refer back to the beginning of this speech when I said that graduation means more than just receiving a diploma; more than just moving a tassel from one side of our hat to the other and officially ending the part of our lives as high school students. Graduation is what you make of it. And after experiencing life under the wings of the IBO, I should be correct when I say that the lives of each and every one of us will be successful ones, no matter where we go. When we have our 5 or 10-year reunion, or whenever Allison wants to organize it, I strongly doubt that my statement will be false. After 4 years of seeing the same exact faces everyday all day, we're finally each going our separate ways. College life is going to be much different from what we have had. Let's not forget exactly where we came from. We've put up with each other for what seemed forever. But I have to say something I realized just two days ago and that I got a little emotional when typing this: friends aren't always people you talk to everyday. There are a lot of people in the world that you may call a friend and could be one of the worst individuals to be involved with. But being with you guys for 4 years has showed me that there's greatness in every single one of you, things unmentionable to the mind's recollection, and that I really have to say I love you all. There was apparently apart in my heart that was being saved to be filled by a group of people, and I realized that the 21 of you, in each of your own ways, filled that void with a better feeling that I've had in a long time. The feeling I'll have for you next year is beyond the word "miss". I just hope the person I've been will be imprinted into your hearts as well. Please remember that this isn't goodbye, it's just "see you later."

Once again, I would like to thank Mr. Abelon for being patient with this class, the Governing Committee, the East Hartford Board of Education, Mr. Jordan, especially Dr. Fallon, our Guidance Counselor Mr.

Spiller for being there almost everyday for not only being a Guidance Counselor who organized our schedules, but a friend to talk to, teachers who made our high school transition the easiest and wonderful four years to look back on (I'd love to mention every single one but it would make this speech longer than it is), East Hartford High School staff but most importantly, the parents, who brought us onto this Earth, gave us life, and raised us to the best of their ability. And when I say best, I mean BEST. Whether they show it or not, every second we're alive on this Earth, they love us in a way we may not understand. We wouldn't be here today if it weren't for them. To this first CIBA graduating Class of 2003: The programs and tickets call this a Commencement of the Class of 2003. This means we're just starting where our lives will begin to pick up. Make this graduation one of dignity and remembrance; and treat today as your fast big step into the real world.

Thank you.

HONORING CHAIRMAN BOB STUMP

HON. DARRELL E. ISSA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 25, 2003

Mr. ISSA. Mr. Speaker, I rise tonight to remember the life and work of former Congressman Bob Stump. Mr. Stump was a true gentleman with whom I had the privilege of serving in this body for two years.

Before being elected to Congress, Mr. Stump served in the United States Navy and also served in the Arizona House of Representatives and in the Arizona State Senate.

He was first elected to Congress November 3, 1976, where he faithfully served the people of Arizona for 26 years in the U.S. House of Representatives. Mr. Stump was a man whose congressional career was spent working for our Nation's men and women in uniform. His commitment to the military and to our Nation's defense should be an example to us all.

I send my condolences to his wife Nancy, three children, and five grandchildren.

THE AMERICAN DREAM

HON. RANDY "DUKE" CUNNINGHAM

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 25, 2003

Mr. CUNNINGHAM. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to read the essay of Elizabeth Hernandez, a member of the Valley Center Teenage Republican Club:

For many years people from Mexico have been coming to this country for a better opportunity, better life and a future for their children and family, the most common reason why they choose to come here, is because America gives them a chance to start a new life. They have special programs from which they can benefit, so they can progress in life and have something they can call their own. The economy has a great influence in this too. Mexico has many states that are very poor.

Economic issues are a strong reason why America is a good target for them. Mexico has many states that are poor and do not have the sufficient resources that a person should have during this century. Most towns

are still without electricity, water pumps, and telephones. This makes daily life more difficult. They always hear that in America all of this is not an issue; that you can practically go everywhere and all of these resources are given to you. In Mexico, jobs are everywhere but they don't get enough money to have an average life. The cost of food constantly increases but the wages stay the same. That makes it harder to buy or afford anything. Here in America, we don't see that problem because if food or the daily necessity goes up, so does the minimum wage for every job. In Mexico, there is not a law that tells companies how much they have to pay their employees. Most of the time they pay a small amount of money for the amount of time they work. Some occasions they work up to sixteen hours straight a day for five or six days a week. Here in America you can't do that, the hours you can work is a maximum of forty hours a week; after that they have to pay you over time. When this happens in Mexico, parents can't afford to feed their children because they are not paid overtime. That is why they choose to come to America so they can have food on their table every night and a few other luxuries.

For that same reason, their education is affected. Most parents make their children work so they can get more money to be able to buy food and clothing. Usually the children drop out of school at an early age, some of them just complete the fifth grade. Children that keep on going to school usually have money or they live in the city. People that don't live in a major city don't have the same opportunity. In America there is always a public school minutes away from where you live even if you don't live in a major city. You are guaranteed a free education all the way until high school and after that you can also get a college education in a community college that is less expensive than a University. That is why the people of Mexico come to America so they can put food on their table and their children are guaranteed an education regardless from what country they originate. That is why the "American Dream" is the way they refer to America.

CONGRATULATIONS TO THE ALABAMA STATE DOCKS FOR 75 YEARS OF SERVICE TO SOCIETY

HON. JO BONNER

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 25, 2003

Mr. BONNER. Mr. Speaker, it gives me great pleasure to recognize the Alabama State Docks on the occasion of the 75th anniversary of its official dedication. The dedication took place on June 25, 1928, with several dignitaries attending, including Governor Bibb Graves, U.S. Congressman John McDuffie, U.S. Senator Hugo Black and the Assistant Chief of the United States Department of Transportation. Since that time, the port city of Mobile has enjoyed a lengthy history as an integral part of the State and National economy.

In 1519, just a short 27 years following Christopher Columbus's discovery of the New World, Spanish explorer Admiral Alvarez de Pineda sailed into what is now called Mobile Bay. The present-day city of Mobile was founded in 1702 by French explorers Jean Baptiste Le Moyne and Sieur de Bienville. The port of Mobile, which lies at the mouth of the Mobile River and the head of Mobile Bay, began contributing to the economy of the re-

gion by becoming one of the leading exporters of cotton. Since the early part of the 17th century, the port city has flourished to become Alabama's third largest city and among the national leaders in international trade.

The current 45 foot deep navigational channel, which is maintained by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, serves the port well in connecting Mobile to the Gulf of Mexico. The Mobile River, which is formed by the confluence of the Black Warrior and Tombigbee Rivers, functions as the gateway for the Tennessee/Tombigbee Waterway. The obvious economic possibilities and the lack of central organizational operation spurred the Alabama Legislature to submit a constitutional amendment to develop Alabama's Seaport with state financial assistance. The amendment was passed in 1922 and the State Docks Commission was formed to build, operate and maintain the facilities of the State Docks. With just \$10 million to spend, the Commission chose retired Major General William L. Sibert to engineer and construct one of the finest seaports on the Gulf Coast. Construction was not yet completed when the new Docks received their first cargo ship in May of 1927.

The port, which ranked 14th in total tonnage in 1999, is ahead of other ports such as Tampa, Seattle, Charleston, and Savannah. Mobile also ranks first nationally in wood pulp and Gulf coast forest products exports. The State Docks has made an overwhelming impact on the State economy by generating approximately \$3 billion in revenues statewide each year. With the ability to service many different products, the port continues to position itself among the leaders in international trade. And as a self-supporting enterprise agency of the executive branch of State government, the facilities prove that they can compete and operate to the benefit of not only the people of Alabama but also the Nation.

I ask my colleagues to join me today in recognizing the Alabama State Docks for 75 years of excellence and leadership in the shipping industry. The residents of Alabama and the American people have all benefited greatly from the Docks, existence and its important role in today's economy.

CONGRATULATIONS TO MS. KATHLEEN McGRATH ON ELECTION INTO NATIONAL TEACHERS HALL OF FAME

HON. CLIFF STEARNS

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 25, 2003

Mr. STEARNS. The National Teachers Hall of Fame is an organization, which recognizes and honors exceptional teachers and the teaching profession. The Hall of Fame annually honors five teachers whom have demonstrated commitment and dedication to teaching our Nation's children. This year, I am fortunate to have one of my constituents, Kathleen McGrath, elected as a member of the Class of 2003.

Kathleen is a fifth grade teacher at Saddlewood Elementary School in Ocala, FL and has been teaching for 22 years at various schools throughout Marion County. Kathleen creates a learning environment in her class where students feel safe to take risks and